

In the Claims

1           1.     [Currently Amended] An image forming device comprising:  
2           storage circuitry configured to store an initial variable configured to  
3           control the formulation of an initial one of a plurality of consumable order assist  
4           functions configured to assist replenishment of an imaging consumable;  
5           imaging circuitry configured to consume the imaging consumable to form  
6           hard images;  
7           a sensor configured to monitor a status of the imaging consumable and to  
8           output a signal indicative of the status;  
9           processing circuitry configured to replace the initial variable with another  
10          variable configured to control the formulation of another of the consumable  
11          order assist functions, to receive the signal from the sensor, and to formulate  
12          the another consumable order assist function responsive to reception of the  
13          signal and the another variable; ~~and~~  
14          an interface configured to communicate the another consumable order  
15          assist function externally of the image forming device; and  
16          wherein the initial consumable order assist function comprises one of an  
17          identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a  
18          purchaser of the imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist  
19          function comprises an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging  
20          consumable and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable, and  
21          wherein the initial and the another consumable order assist functions are  
22          different.

1           2.     [Original] The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein  
2           the processing circuitry is configured to receive the another variable using a  
3           remote query language.

1           3.     [Original] The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein  
2           the processing circuitry is configured to receive the another variable using a  
3           Simple Network Management Protocol.

1           4.     [Original] The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein  
2 the imaging circuitry comprises printer circuitry configured to print hard images  
3 upon media.

1           5.     [Currently Amended] The image forming device according to claim  
2 1 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to formulate the initial  
3 consumable order assist function comprising ~~[[an]]~~ the identifier of ~~[[a]]~~ the  
4 supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of the imaging consumable  
5 being monitored.

1           6.     [Currently Amended] The image forming device according to claim  
2 1 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to formulate the another  
3 consumable order assist function comprising ~~[[an]]~~ the identifier of ~~[[a]]~~ the  
4 purchaser of the imaging consumable, an identifier of the image forming device,  
5 and an identifier of the imaging consumable being monitored.

1           7.     [Original] The image forming device according to claim 1 the  
2 processing circuitry is configured to formulate the another consumable order  
3 assist function comprising an identifier of the imaging forming device and an  
4 order for the imaging consumable being monitored, and the processing circuitry  
5 is configured to forward the order to a predetermined location.

1           8.     [Currently Amended] An image forming system comprising:  
2 an image forming device configured to consume an imaging consumable  
3 to form hard images, to monitor a status of the imaging consumable, and to  
4 store an initial variable configured to control the formulation of an initial one of a  
5 plurality of consumable order assist functions configured to assist replenishment  
6 of the imaging consumable; and  
7 a host device coupled with the image forming device and configured to  
8 provide another variable to the image forming device to control the formulation  
9 of another one of the consumable order assist functions, wherein the image  
10 forming device is configured to replace the initial variable with the another  
11 variable to control the formulation of the another consumable order assist

12 function responsive to the detection of a predetermined status of the imaging  
13 consumable; and

14 wherein the initial consumable order assist function comprises only one of  
15 an identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a  
16 purchaser of the imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist  
17 function comprises only an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging  
18 consumable and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable.

1 9. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein  
2 the host device is configured to provide the another variable to the image  
3 forming device using a remote query language.

1 10. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein  
2 the host device is configured to provide the another variable to the image  
3 forming device using a Simple Network Management Protocol.

1 11. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein  
2 the image forming device is configured to print images upon media to form  
3 images.

1 12. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein  
2 the image forming device is configured to formulate the another consumable  
3 order assist function.

1 13. [Currently Amended] The image forming system according to  
2 claim 8 wherein the image forming device is configured to formulate the initial  
3 consumable order assist function comprising [[an]] the identifier of [[a]] the  
4 supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of the imaging consumable  
5 being monitored, and the host device is configured to display the identifier of the  
6 imaging consumable and the identifier of the supplier of the imaging  
7 consumable.

1           14. [Currently Amended] The image forming system according to  
2 claim 8 wherein the image forming device is configured to formulate the another  
3 consumable order assist function comprising ~~[[an]]~~ the identifier of ~~[[a]]~~ the  
4 purchaser of the imaging consumable, an identifier of the image forming device,  
5 and an identifier of the imaging consumable being monitored, and the host  
6 device is configured to display the identifier of the imaging consumable and the  
7 purchaser of the imaging consumable.

1           15. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein  
2 the image forming device is configured to formulate the another consumable  
3 order assist function comprising an identifier of the imaging forming device and  
4 an order for the imaging consumable being monitored, and the image forming  
5 device is configured to forward the order to a predetermined location.

1           16. [Currently Amended] A method of facilitating ordering of an  
2 imaging consumable useable within an image forming device comprising:  
3           providing an image forming device configured to use an imaging  
4 consumable to form hard images;  
5           providing an initial variable within the image forming device to control the  
6 formulation of an initial one of a plurality of consumable order assist functions  
7 configured to assist replenishment of the imaging consumable;  
8           replacing the initial variable with another variable within the image  
9 forming device to control the formulation of another of the consumable order  
10 assist functions;  
11           detecting an amount of the imaging consumable being at a predetermined  
12 status; ~~and~~  
13           generating the another one of the consumable order assist functions  
14 responsive to the detecting and the replacing; and  
15           wherein the generating comprises generating the another consumable  
16 order assist function using the image forming device.

1           17. [Original] The method according to claim 16 further comprising  
2 providing the another variable within the image forming device using a remote  
3 query language.

1           18. [Original] The method according to claim 16 wherein the providing  
2 comprises providing an image forming device comprising printer circuitry  
3 configured to print images upon media to form hard images.

1           19. [Original] The method according to claim 16 wherein the providing  
2 the initial variable comprises providing the initial variable to cause the image  
3 forming device to formulate the initial consumable order assist function to  
4 comprise an identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier  
5 of the imaging consumable.

1           20. [Original] The method according to claim 16 wherein the  
2 generating comprises formulating the another consumable order assist function  
3 to comprise an identifier of a purchaser of the imaging consumable, an identifier  
4 of the image forming device, and an identifier of the imaging consumable.

1           21. [Original] The method according to claim 16 wherein the  
2 generating comprises formulating the another consumable order assist function  
3 to comprise an identifier of the imaging forming device and an order for the  
4 imaging consumable.

Cancel claims 22-24.

1           25. [Previously Presented] The method according to claim 16 wherein  
2 the initial consumable order assist function comprises one of an identifier of a  
3 supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a purchaser of the  
4 imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist function  
5 comprises an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging consumable  
6 and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable, and wherein the  
7 initial and the another consumable order assist functions are different.

1           26.   Cancel.

1           27.   [New] A method of facilitating ordering of an imaging consumable  
2 useable within an image forming device comprising:

3           providing an image forming device configured to use an imaging  
4 consumable to form hard images;

5           providing an initial variable within the image forming device to control the  
6 formulation of an initial one of a plurality of consumable order assist functions  
7 configured to assist replenishment of the imaging consumable;

8           replacing the initial variable with another variable within the image  
9 forming device to control the formulation of another of the consumable order  
10 assist functions;

11          detecting an amount of the imaging consumable being at a predetermined  
12 status;

13          generating the another one of the consumable order assist functions  
14 responsive to the detecting and the replacing; and

15          wherein the initial consumable order assist function comprises one of an  
16 identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a  
17 purchaser of the imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist  
18 function comprises an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging  
19 consumable and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable, and  
20 wherein the initial and the another consumable order assist functions are  
21 different.